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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-10

COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 L-03 /090 R

DRAFTED BY E:RMPOATS/EA/J:DFSMITH:BCL
APPROVED BY C;HSONNENFELDT
EUR/SOV - WILLIAM EDGAR
S/S-O: JLHOGANSON
---------- 093469
R 130306Z SEP 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652;N/A

TAGS:EAGR, JA, UR

SUBJECT:JAPANESE INQUIRY ABOUT US-SOVIET GRAIN NEGOTIATIONS

1. JAPANESE EMBOFF ASKED POATS SEPTEMBER 10 ABOUT GRAIN AGREEMENT USG WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH SOVIETS, NOTING THAT STATEMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT HAD APPARENTLY CAUSED CONCERN IN TOKYO. IN PARTICULAR HE INQUIRED WHETHER US HAD IN MIND "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" BETWEEN US AND JAPANESE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS, WHICH ONLY SET TARGETS WITHOUT FORMAL COMMITMENT, OR MORE FORMAL AGREEMENT. HE ALSO ASKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIP TO WHEAT COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVE PRO-POSAL.

2. POATS REPLIED THAT WE WOULD BE EXPLORING WITH SOVIETS FORMAL MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD COMMIT USSR TO
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TAKE FIXED AMOUNT OF US GRAIN EACH YEAR, WHETHER CURRENTLY

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NEEDED OR NOT- OUR OBJECTIVES ARE (A) TO REMOVE MAIN SOURCE OF RADICAL SWINGS IN FOREIGN DEMAND FOR US GRAIN; (B) TO GIVE US FARMERS, CONSEQUENTLY, BASIS FOR SAFELY EXPANDING PRODUCTION; (C) TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF JAPAN AND OTHER ESTABLISHED CUSTOMERS BY LIMITING RUSSIAN ENTRY INTO US GRAIN MARKET AND STABILIZING GRAIN PRICES; (D) TO REQUIRE SOVIETS TO CREATE GRAIN RESERVES IN GOOD CROP YEARS. PROPOSED AGREEMENT MIGHT ALSO DIFFER FUNDAMENTALLY FROM ARRANGEMENT WITH JAPAN IN THAT IT MAY INVOLVE A SWAP OF GRAIN FOR OIL AND A SPECIAL SHIPPING ARRANGEMENT, ALTHOUGH OIL ASPECT MORE TENTATIVE. US INTENTION IS TO ADVANCE BY THIS KEY STEP GOAL OF ESTABLISHING NATIONALLY HELD INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVE SYSTEM. KISSINGER

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